

## Complaint about subsistence issue

Dear Editor:

I have a complaint. You use too many big words. The Subsistence Issue was directed at two audiences, as you wrote, to those in the villages (I think you wrote rural) and to the lawmakers. The lawmakers would have no trouble, but I for one, found many things hard to understand. I liked what Pete Bobby from Lime Village wrote on the last page. That is what subsistence hunting is all about.

On the first and second pages of the special issue are these examples: "An integral part of that debate will include dialogue..." "With the utmost pragmatism Alaska Natives have acquired a new subsistence technology..." These go way above us rural readers.

Ms. Rosita Worl's use of the word "feasts" to describe certain Eskimo celebrations is probably inappropriate for these times. To most people, feast means a great abundance of food. I am writing a story about the biggest of these celebrations-The Nalukatak. For this celebration, the eating and the distribution of the whale flukes takes up only about 30 percent of the day. I will submit the story when I am satisfied it is complete and correct. The first words are: Nalukatak. A day of joy and celebration.

Yours truly,  
Irving Ungudruk

## Protect integrity in state ferry system

Dear Editor:

Recently the ferry system has been making headlines again. I have a great interest in the ferry system for several reasons-I'm an Alaskan resident, taxpayer, registered voter, and I will have completed five years of service on the ferries in May.

This is a plea to the people of Alaska, to elected officials, to anyone and everyone who can help, please SAVE OUR SHIPS. Having read the Ombudsman's report in the paper, I join with many other concerned individuals in applauding and saluting the Ombudsman and his assistants for presenting to the public a few of the infractions which should have been corrected by the Administration.

During the ferry strike the importance of the ferries to Alaska was dramatically brought to the attention of the people, (especially Southeast.) Yet it seems one factor has been overlooked, the ferries represent the State of Alaska, in a greater capacity than most people seem to realize. People from all over the world ride this unique mode of transportation, and to a great majority of Alaskan visitors, the ferries are the first contact with Alaska, Alaskan lifestyle and Alaskans. The ferries are the "first impressions" of Alaska and the services and information offered will be used as a guideline to expect of the rest of Alaska. Places such as Nome, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Anchorage, Barrow, Kotzebue, etc., are all represented by these ships. These visitors begin the first step of their Alaskan experience and have their initial introduction to the great land of Alaska on the ferries.

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Using this perspective, evaluate the impressions presented of Alaska under present standards of services and operations: staterooms without restrooms or windows, a stand in line fast food service offering chicken in the basket or hamburgers, coffee from a machine costing 30 cents for breakfast and 25 cents for lunch, scrambled eggs only, pre-packaged pastries containing so many preservatives that the wrappers are probably safer for

consumption, golden trout (in a salmon, halibut, crab and prawns Kingdom), no pillow nor blankets to rent when there are no staterooms available, public showers but no towels, and the list goes on and on. What would be your "first impression" of Alaska? What represents the State of Alaska—a floating hamburger chain? If you aren't happy with your answers change it! Remember someday you might ride the ferries, what kind of comfort and conveniences do you want for yourself?

If you want these ships to represent Alaska, please let your

elected officials know, now. Call them or write them and if you aren't sure who your representatives are call your local voter's registrar. The ferries belong to the people of Alaska, make them the pride of Alaska. Don't allow this bureaucratic red tape and misrepresentation to jeopardize our Alaskan reputation or the future of the ferries. Help us out here, we are what you, as an Alaskan, are letting them make us—especially during these times when we need you and your support.

Sincerely,  
LaVena Blackwell